

## CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1        1.    A method of disseminating information, comprising:  
2                forming one or more category frames containing data for  
3        user-selectable categories;  
4                forming a meta frame identifying the user-selectable  
5        categories corresponding to the one or more category frames;  
6        and  
7                transmitting broadcast information including the meta  
8        frame and the one or more category frames in sequence on a  
9        common transmission media shared by a plurality of users.

1        2.    The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                responsive to receiving the meta frame and the one or  
3        more category frames at a device employed by one of the  
4        plurality of users, extracting category information from the  
5        meta frame and presenting the user-selectable categories to  
6        the user.

1        3.    The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
2                responsive to selection of a user-selectable category  
3        by the user,  
4                receiving a category frame corresponding to the  
5        user-selectable category from the one or more category  
6        frames,  
7                formatting data within the category frame for  
8        presentation to the user, and  
9                presenting the data from the category frame to the  
10        user utilizing the device.

1        4.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming one

2 or more category frames containing data for user-selectable  
3 categories further comprises:

4 forming each category frame with a starting delimiter  
5 identifying a start of the respective category frame, a  
6 major code identifying a category to which the respective  
7 category frame belongs, encoded data for the respective  
8 category frame, and an ending delimiter for the respective  
9 category frame.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming a  
2 meta frame identifying the user-selectable categories  
3 corresponding to the one or more category frames further  
4 comprises:

5 forming the meta frame with  
6 a starting delimiter identifying a start of the  
7 meta frame,  
8 a major code identifying the meta frame,  
9 for each category corresponding to one of the one  
10 or more category frames,  
11 a category name for the respective category,  
12 a major code identifying the respective  
13 category to which the one of the one or more  
14 category frames belongs,  
15 position information specifying a position of  
16 the one of the one or more category frames within  
17 the broadcast information, and  
18 an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta  
19 frame.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting  
2 broadcast information including the meta frame and the one  
3 or more category frames in sequence on a common transmission

4 media shared by a plurality of users further comprises:  
5 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more  
6 category frames in repetitive succession in one or more  
7 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting  
2 the meta frame and the one or more category frames in  
3 repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on  
4 one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more  
6 category frames in repetitive succession in a single  
7 continuous cycle on a single frequency.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting  
2 the meta frame and the one or more category frames in  
3 repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on  
4 one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 transmitting the meta frame in repetitive succession on  
6 a first frequency; and

7 transmitting subsets of the one or more category frames  
8 in repetitive succession on one or more other frequencies,  
9 wherein a unique subset of the one or more category frames  
10 is transmitted on each of the one or more other frequencies.

1 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting  
2 the meta frame and the one or more category frames in  
3 repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on  
4 one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more  
6 category frames in repetitive succession in a single  
7 continuous cycle on each of a plurality of frequencies at  
8 different offsets, wherein a different frame from the meta

9 frame and the one or more category frames is transmitted at  
10 a given time on each frequency within the plurality of  
11 frequencies.

1 10. A system of disseminating information, comprising:  
2 means for forming one or more category frames  
3 containing data for user-selectable categories;  
4 means for forming a meta frame identifying the user-  
5 selectable categories corresponding to the one or more  
6 category frames; and  
7 means for transmitting broadcast information including  
8 the meta frame and the one or more category frames in  
9 sequence on a common transmission media shared by a  
10 plurality of users.

1 11. The system of claim 10, further comprising:  
2 means, responsive to receiving the meta frame and the  
3 one or more category frames at a device employed by one of  
4 the plurality of users, for extracting category information  
5 from the meta frame and presenting the user-selectable  
6 categories to the user.

1 12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2 means, responsive to selection of a user-selectable  
3 category by the user, for  
4 receiving a category frame corresponding to the  
5 user-selectable category from the one or more category  
6 frames,  
7 formatting data within the category frame for  
8 presentation to the user, and  
9 presenting the data from the category frame to the  
10 user utilizing the device.

1 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for forming  
2 one or more category frames containing data for user-  
3 selectable categories further comprises:

4 means for forming each category frame with a starting  
5 delimiter identifying a start of the respective category  
6 frame, a major code identifying a category to which the  
7 respective category frame belongs, encoded data for the  
8 respective category frame, and an ending delimiter for the  
9 respective category frame.

1 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for forming a  
2 meta frame identifying the user-selectable categories  
3 corresponding to the one or more category frames further  
4 comprises:

5 means for forming the meta frame with  
6 a starting delimiter identifying a start of the  
7 meta frame,  
8 a major code identifying the meta frame,  
9 for each category corresponding to one of the one  
10 or more category frames,  
11 a category name for the respective category,  
12 a major code identifying the respective  
13 category to which the one of the one or more  
14 category frames belongs,  
15 position information specifying a position of  
16 the one of the one or more category frames within  
17 the broadcast information, and  
18 an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta  
19 frame.

1 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for  
2 transmitting broadcast information including the meta frame  
3 and the one or more category frames in sequence on a common  
4 transmission media shared by a plurality of users further  
5 comprises:

6 means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or  
7 more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more  
8 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for  
2 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category  
3 frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous  
4 cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or  
6 more category frames in repetitive succession in a single  
7 continuous cycle on a single frequency.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for  
2 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category  
3 frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous  
4 cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 means for transmitting the meta frame in repetitive  
6 succession on a first frequency; and

7 means for transmitting subsets of the one or more  
8 category frames in repetitive succession on one or more  
9 other frequencies, wherein a unique subset of the one or  
10 more category frames is transmitted on each of the one or  
11 more other frequencies.

1 18. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for  
2 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category  
3 frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous  
4 cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or  
6 more category frames in repetitive succession in a single  
7 continuous cycle on each of a plurality of frequencies at  
8 different offsets, wherein a different frame from the meta

[illegible]



1 19. A computer program product within a computer usable  
2 medium for disseminating information, comprising:  
3 instructions for forming one or more category frames  
4 containing data for user-selectable categories;  
5 instructions for forming a meta frame identifying the  
6 user-selectable categories corresponding to the one or more  
7 category frames; and  
8 instructions for transmitting broadcast information  
9 including the meta frame and the one or more category frames  
10 in sequence on a common transmission media shared by a  
11 plurality of users.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 19, further  
2 comprising:  
3 instructions, responsive to receiving the meta frame  
4 and the one or more category frames at a device employed by  
5 one of the plurality of users, for extracting category  
6 information from the meta frame and presenting the user-  
7 selectable categories to the user.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 20, further  
2 comprising:  
3 instructions, responsive to selection of a user-  
4 selectable category by the user, for  
5 receiving a category frame corresponding to the  
6 user-selectable category from the one or more category  
7 frames,  
8 formatting data within the category frame for  
9 presentation to the user, and  
10 presenting the data from the category frame to the  
11 user utilizing the device.

1       22. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the  
2       instructions for forming one or more category frames  
3       containing data for user-selectable categories further  
4       comprise:

5           instructions for forming each category frame with a  
6       starting delimiter identifying a start of the respective  
7       category frame, a major code identifying a category to which  
8       the respective category frame belongs, encoded data for the  
9       respective category frame, and an ending delimiter for the  
10      respective category frame.

11      23. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the  
12      instructions for forming a meta frame identifying the user-  
13      selectable categories corresponding to the one or more  
14      category frames further comprise:

15          instructions for forming the meta frame with  
16              a starting delimiter identifying a start of the  
17      meta frame,  
18              a major code identifying the meta frame,  
19              for each category corresponding to one of the one  
20      or more category frames,  
21              a category name for the respective category,  
22              a major code identifying the respective  
23      category to which the one of the one or more  
24      category frames belongs,  
25              position information specifying a position of  
26      the one of the one or more category frames within  
27      the broadcast information, and  
28              an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta  
29      frame.

1       24. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the

2 instructions for transmitting broadcast information  
3 including the meta frame and the one or more category frames  
4 in sequence on a common transmission media shared by a  
5 plurality of users further comprise:

6 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the  
7 one or more category frames in repetitive succession in one  
8 or more continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

1 25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the  
2 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or  
3 more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more  
4 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further  
5 comprise:

6 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the  
7 one or more category frames in repetitive succession in a  
8 single continuous cycle on a single frequency.

1 26. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the  
2 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or  
3 more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more  
4 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further  
5 comprise:

6 instructions for transmitting the meta frame in  
7 repetitive succession on a first frequency; and

8 instructions for transmitting subsets of the one or  
9 more category frames in repetitive succession on one or more  
10 other frequencies, wherein a unique subset of the one or  
11 more category frames is transmitted on each of the one or  
12 more other frequencies.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the  
2 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or

3 more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more  
4 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further  
5 comprise:

6 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the  
7 one or more category frames in repetitive succession in a  
8 single continuous cycle on each of a plurality of  
9 frequencies at different offsets, wherein a different frame  
10 from the meta frame and the one or more category frames is  
11 transmitted at a given time on each frequency within the  
12 plurality of frequencies.